

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Hyattsville Armory

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 5340 Baltimore Avenue not for publication

city, town Hyattsville vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Maryland code 24 county Prince George's code 033

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Messrs. Berton A. Bromwell, Sr. and Berton A. Bromwell, Jr.

street & number 5340 Baltimore Avenue

city, town Hyattsville vicinity of state Maryland 20781

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse, Registry of Deeds

street & number Main Street

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

PG: 68-9

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hyattsville Armory, often referred to by local residents as "the Castle on the Hill", was built by the State of Maryland in 1918 to house components of Company F of the First Maryland Infantry. Company F was formed on May 8, 1912, and initially met in a room above the Hyattsville Fire Department.

The Armory, designed by William Harris to house 150 guardsmen, is distinctly fortress-like and on its knoll it occupies a strong defensive position. It offers a commanding view of the surrounding area, and patterned after a medieval English castle, the Armory, built of native stone, communicates strength and mystery reminiscent of the legenday era of the Knights of the Roundtable. This can be discerned from the rectangular turrets flanking the arched limestone entrance-way as well as the parapeted walls of the building. The rear portion of the building which was used as an assembly area was patterned after the "great halls" of the castles. The roof supports of this assembly area even resembles the patterned timber work of the "great Halls", although done here in steel and designed as trussed bents. These bents divided the walls of the area into six (6) sections which can be ascertained from the exterior by the stone buttresses in the walls which take the added thrust of these large roof supporting structures.

The exterior walls of the building are solid eighteen (18) inch thick granite from nearby quarries laid up in random patterns with beaded mortar joints.

While the parapets in the main section rise only thirty (30) inches above the roof, the turrets measuring 7 feet 7 inches square rise fifteen (15) feet above the roof surface.

The reverse side of the "Great Seal of Maryland" is in limestone and appears above the main entrance-way incorporated in the parapet.

The fenestration of the front section were in the original building nine over nine and six of six lights double hung windows on the first and second floor and six of six lights in the English basement while on the first and second floor have one over one lights in the present structure. The present owner plans on restoring the windows to its original state.

In the assembly area in each bay there are six fifteen (15) light windows arranged three over three, all of which whose styles are pivoted to open.

Beyond the assembly area is a three story structure containing a garage flanked by offices and stairs which gain entry to the assembly area. Above the garage is the stage of the assembly area.

The third floor contains storage rooms. The basement below the assembly area contain the rifle range, gun storage rooms, boiler room, armory, shower and toilet facilities and living quarters. The assembly area as well as the basement is presently being used for storage and work shop of the present owner who operates the Bromwell Fireplace Fixture Company. There is still visible in the rifle range a shell pocked slanted wall bearing testimony to the many hours of marksmanship practice by scores of guardsmen. The large shower and toilet room used by the guardsmen is still in place, although the fixtures have been removed, the plumbing is visible.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Prince George's County  
Maryland

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PAGE 1

**DESCRIPTION, continued**

Entrance to the foyer from the main entrance is gained through a pair of segmented head wooden doors each containing twenty (20) lights in the upper section of each door measuring 3 feet 9 inches by 9 feet 3 inches and 2 3/8 inches thick. Another pair of these doors gain entrance to the assembly area after one passes through the foyer.

The first and second floors of the front block presently contain offices. Within this structure, floors appeared to be stripped oak flooring over wood joists. Walls and ceiling are lath and plastered.

The interior walls of the turrets as well as the front and rear walls of the assembly area are stone. Original room divisions in the basement were cinderblock.

Other than the stairs in the rear structure to the assembly area, the only other stairway is in the front section which contains stairs from the basement to the second floor.

The interior's most notable feature is the ceramic tiled walls in the Great Hall. Baseboards and chairrails are massive, simple, and uniformly intact throughout the building.

# 8. Significance

PG:68-7

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1918

Builder Architect

Robert Lawrence Harris

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

## SIGNIFICANCE

The Hyattsville Armory is significant in architectural and military history. It was the first Armory built in Prince George's County and the fifth in Maryland (after Elkton in 1915, Bel Air in 1916, and Westminster and Cambridge in 1917) and mightily continues the fortress-like nature of those four slightly earlier structures. Its architect Robert Lawrence Harris, served as state architect under Governor Albert C. Ritchie. In this capacity, Harris would supervise the design of similar armories in Salisbury, Kensington, Silver Spring, Hagerstown, Laurel, Easton, Crisfield, Pocomoke City, Centreville and Cumerland as well as an addition to the armory in Frederick. Thus, the Hyattsville Armory is something of a seminal work. Further, the unit headquarters here has a service history that is distinguished in its own right: it has seen action from Mexico to Central Europe, has several international decorations and has played a key role in establishing the American Legion.

## HISTORY

The form of the building is bound up in military architectural history. Around the turn of the 20th century and doubtless as a result of the patriotic fervor that gripped the country in that era, a fervor that World War I certainly would increase, the various states in the nation had been building armories. These structures uniformly seem to have been inspired by the impregnable neo-castles put up in Manhattan in the late 19th century (e.g., the Squadron A Armory and the Seventh Regiment Army). During this romantic sabre-rattling forment, on May 8, 1912 the First Maryland Infantry established its Company F. That company's original meeting room, above the Hyattsville Fire Station, was obviously emotionally out of place--perhaps even an embarrassment--and the state lost little time in having Harris design more fitting quarters.

Harris was born in 1884 and, although little is know of his background, his architectural practice seems to have flourished. He was state architect under George Ritchie and, in that capacity, supervised the design of armories throughout the state following the Hyattsville building (which, in turn, closely resembles the Westminster armory). He left state service and continued to thrive, apparantley in Baltimore: he was associated with designing the Enoch Pratt Library and the Scottish Rite Temple (both in Baltimore) and, later several, also in an associate capacity, as architect of the Pentagon. These very traditional buildings are manifestations of an equally traditional life: he seems to have been an ardent clubman and was locally active in the Masons, the Shriners, and the Engineers' Club. He was also a distinguished amateur photographer: his shots of Maryland landmarks and landscapes won awards in exhibitions and competitions held in Boston, New York and Copenhagen. Although many of the prints have disappeared, his photographic paltes and cut film negatives have been on permanent loan to the Peale Museum since 1955. (Harris's son, William Calder Harris) gave this collection to the museum five years after his father's death.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Hyattsville Armory  
Prince George's County  
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

SIGNIFICANCE, continued

If the Armory is a fitting companion to similar local buildings, as noted above, so, too, the service history of the unit headquartered in the Armory is significant in its own right. Company F saw active duty in the Mexican Border Incident on June 29, 1916, at Eagle Pass, Texas. Later, in the summer of 1917, the unit was mobilized and transported to Fort McClellan, Alabama and consolidated with elements of the Fifth Maryland Infantry Regiment to form the 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division. Fighting in France, its courage was exhibited in the Haute Alsace Sector and the Meuse-Argonne offensive. As a result of this fighting the battalion was authorized two campaign streamers for World War I.

On March 15, 1919, some of the men of the 29th Division met with some 600 other War Veterans at the "Paris Caucus" in Cirque de Paris, in Paris, France: that meeting resulted in the formation of the American Legion. On July 8, 1919, Post 3, composed of men of Company F, received its Charter and became the "First" American Legion Post in Prince George's County (the "third" in the State of Maryland). The Post was designated Snyder-Farmer Post 3, in memory of George W. Farmer and Maurice B. Anyder, Prince Georgians killed during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in 1918. (In 1944, an additional name was added to the Post designation in honor of 2nd Lieutenant Harry M. Butler, a Prince Georgian killed at Normandy during World War I. The Post has since been known as Snyder-Farmer-Butler Post 3.)

One of the most notable achievements of Post 3 was the erection of the Memorial Peace Cross at Bladensburg (dedicated on July 12, 1922). The 40 foot high concrete and marble cross stands in memory of the 49 young men of Prince George's County who died in combat during World War I. The four sides of the base of the Monument bear the words "valor, endurance, courage, and devotion."

The Unit's fighting capability was tested once more in World War II when, after strenuous training, the 115th Infantry Regiment stormed ashore at "Omaha Beach" on D-Day. During the months of combat that followed, names of such places as St. Lo, Villeboudon, Vire, Brest, Bethendorf, Kirchberg and other enemy held towns and cities became fixtures in the history of "the fighting 115th," and the 5,948 casualties sustained attest to the ferocity with which the Regiment fought. The Unit's valor was recognized by its being awarded Campaign Streamers for Normandy (with arrowheads), North France, Rhineland and Central Europe, as well as other decorations including distinguished Unit Streamer embroidered St. Laurent-Sur-Mer and a streamer in the colors of the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

The 115th Infantry vacated the Hyattsville Armory on July 1, 1971 in accordance with the State of Maryland Military Department Order Number 16. The Unit moved temporarily to the Olney Military Site, Gaithersburg, Maryland, and in 1972, to its

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

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Hyattsville Armory  
Prince George's County  
Maryland

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PAGE 3

**SIGNIFICANCE, continued**

permanent home at the George M. Gelson Armory (also known as the White Oake Armory in Silver Spring).

Prior to its sale by the State of Maryland on February 19, 1975, the Armory served the Community of Hyattsville as a meeting place for numerous civic and church organizations and other pro bono groups.

The Armory was purchased in 1975 by Berton A. Bromwell and Son, to house the Bromwell Fireplace Fixture Company. Its reasonably intact fabric (alterations tend to be of reversible nature--changes in the windows' lights) make this Armory (with its relatives throughout the state) a clear symbol of the military's, and the nation's more romantic past.

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Prince George's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE

4

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued**

Interviews with:

Milton Zavadil, Jr., Assistant Chief of Staff, State of Maryland, Fifth  
Regiment Armory, Baltimore, Maryland; Mrs. Hugh McClay, 4912 42nd Pl.,  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20781; Mr. Francis Geary, 4220 Nicholson St.,  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20781.

History, Department of Maryland, "The American Legion" 1919-1934 by Walter F.  
Richardson, published July 1, 1934.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Hyattsville Armory  
Prince George's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET      ITEM NUMBER 10      PAGE 5

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

In the town of Hyattsville on the Washington/Baltimore Boulevard (Route 1):

BEGINNING at a stone on the south line of Franklin Avenue (now known as Jefferson Street) and the West line of the Washington and Baltimore Boulevard, and running with the West line of the Boulevard: South 8 degrees 0 feet; West 115 feet; thence North 85 degrees, 23 feet; West 250 feet; thence, North 9 degrees, 24 feet; East 95 feet to the South line of Franklin Avenue; thence, with the South line of said Avenue North 86 degrees, 47 feet, East 118 feet; thence, south 87 degrees 07 feet.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

PG:68-9

115th Infantry by Chaplain F. Reynolds - Copywrite 1920  
and Records, Prince George's County Courthouse: Liber 4481, page 483, Liber 127, page 87,  
Liber 12, page 567, Liber FS 4, page 97, Liber FS 2, page 135.  
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 26,882.83 square feet (less than one acre)

Quadrangle name Washington East Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 18 331800 4313350  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                        

D                        

E                        

F                        

G                        

H                        

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet #5.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title William A. Aleshire, Robert F. Sellers, and James Maher (AIA)

organization Prince George's Jaycees date 1979

street & number P. O. Box 14 telephone (301) 262-5505 (301) 559-4326  
(301) 422-4861

city or town Hyattsville state Maryland 20781

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national X state    local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date 1-11-80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

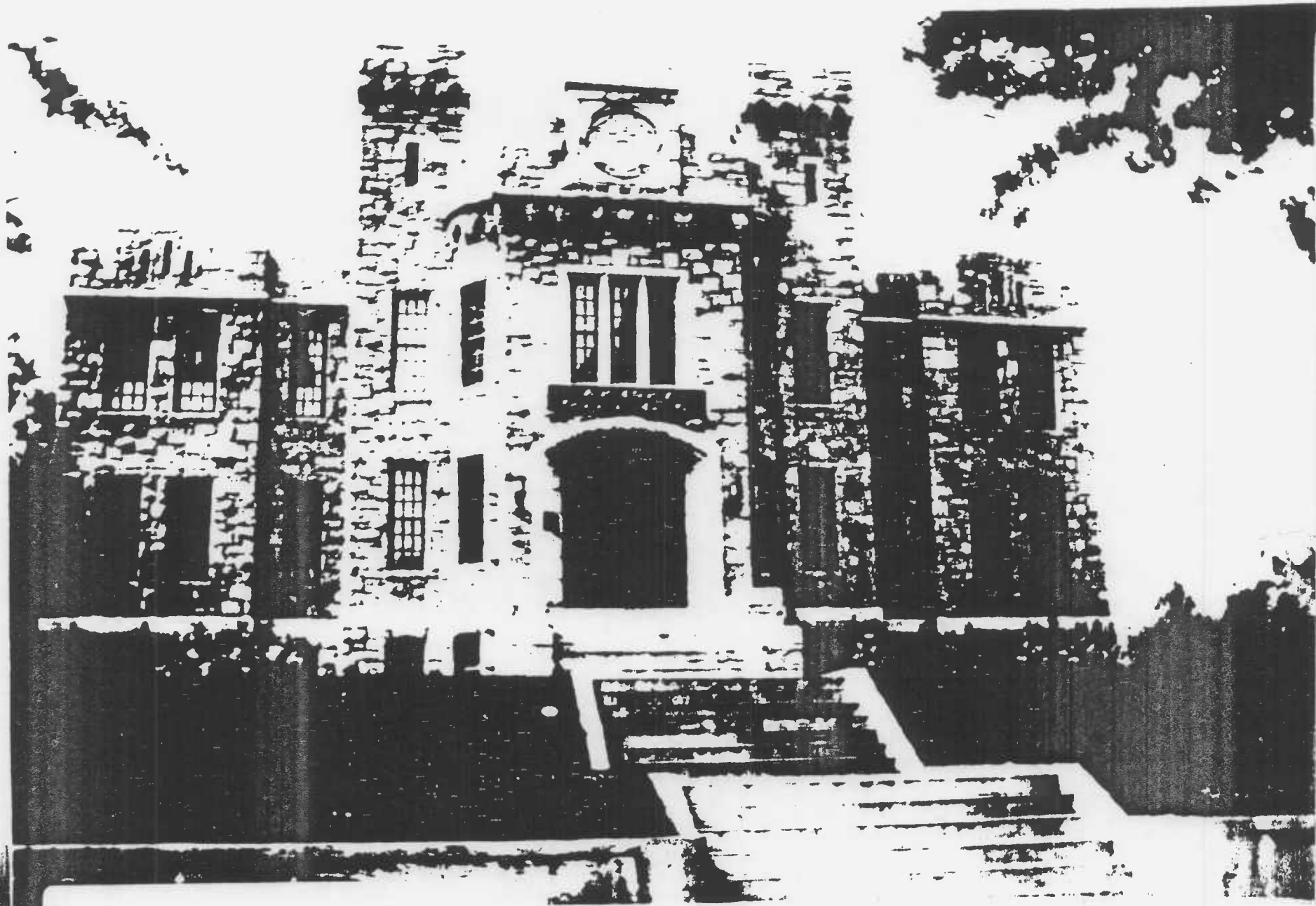
Chief of Registration

# Washington East Quad

## Hyattsville Armory

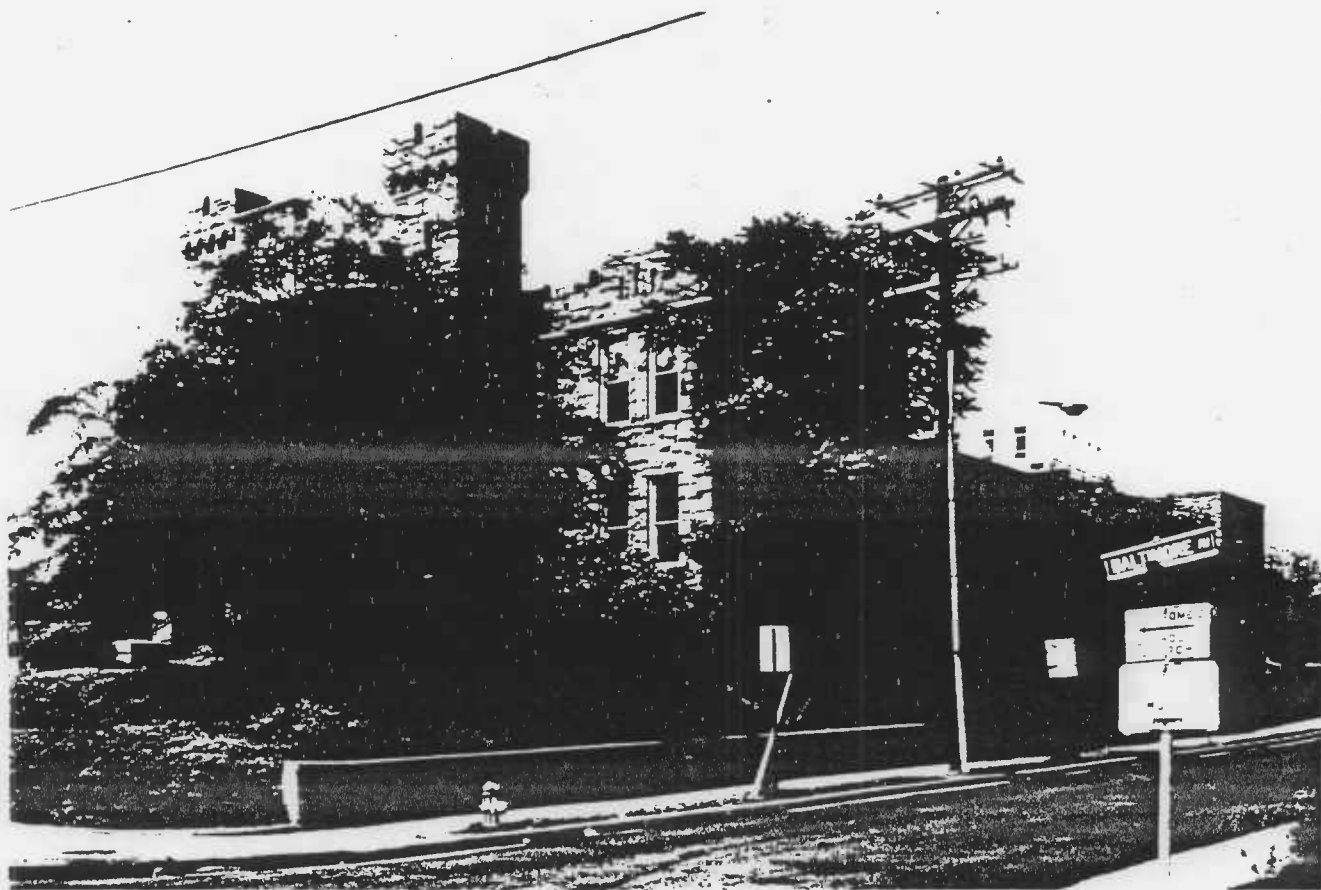
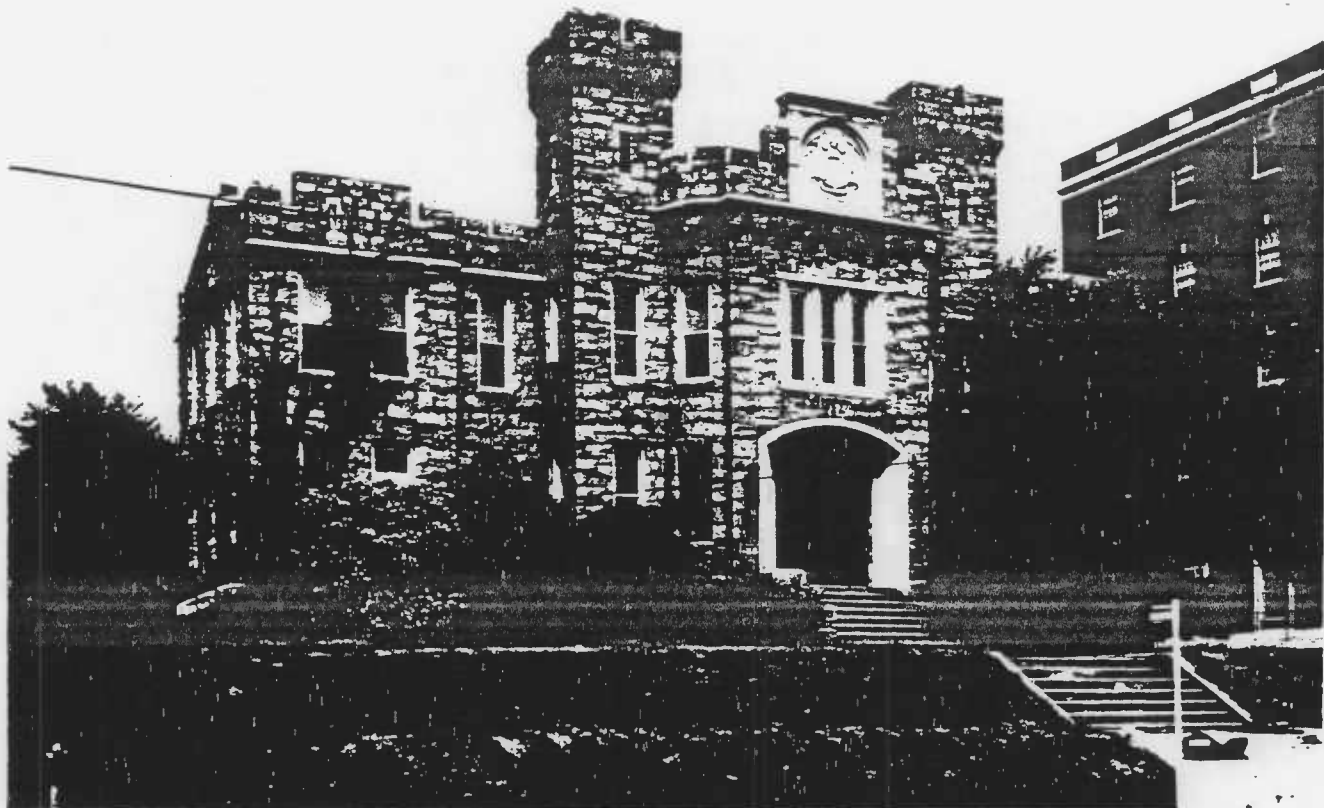
PG. 68-9

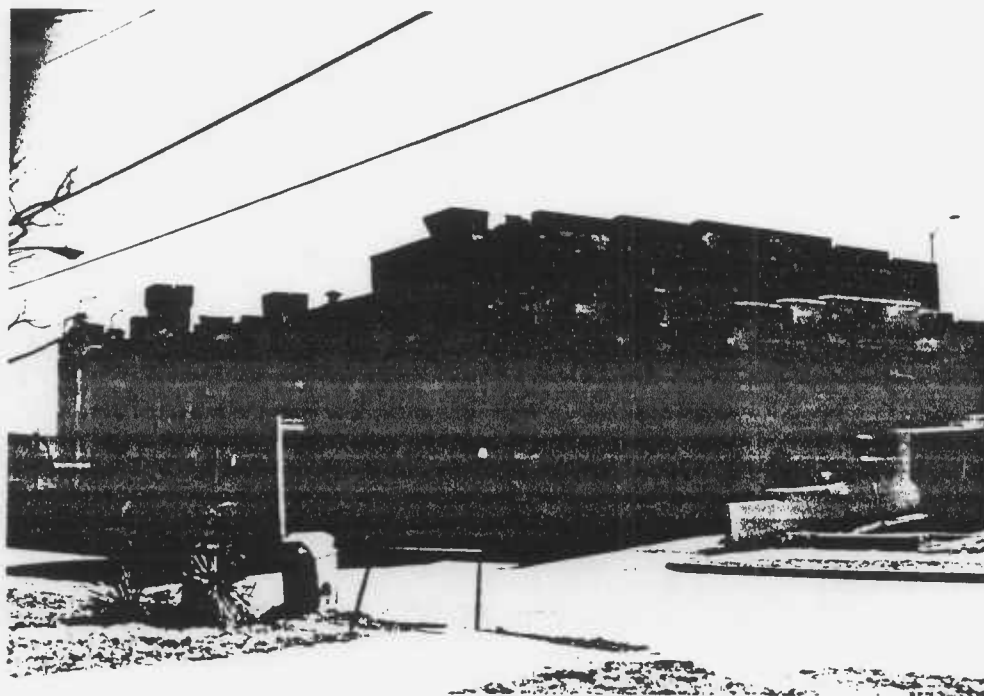
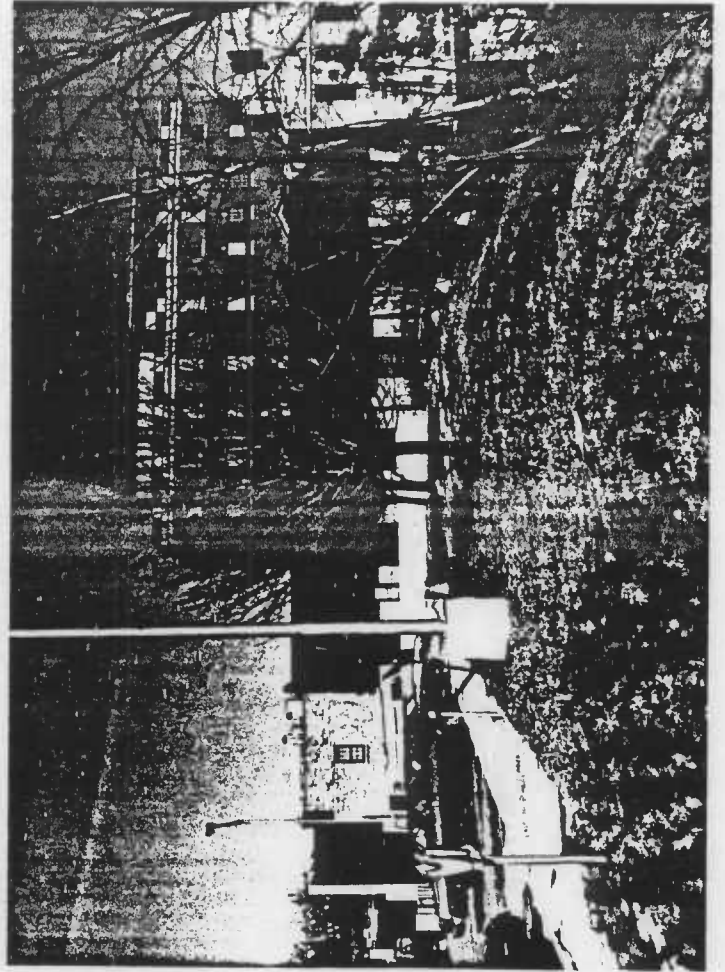
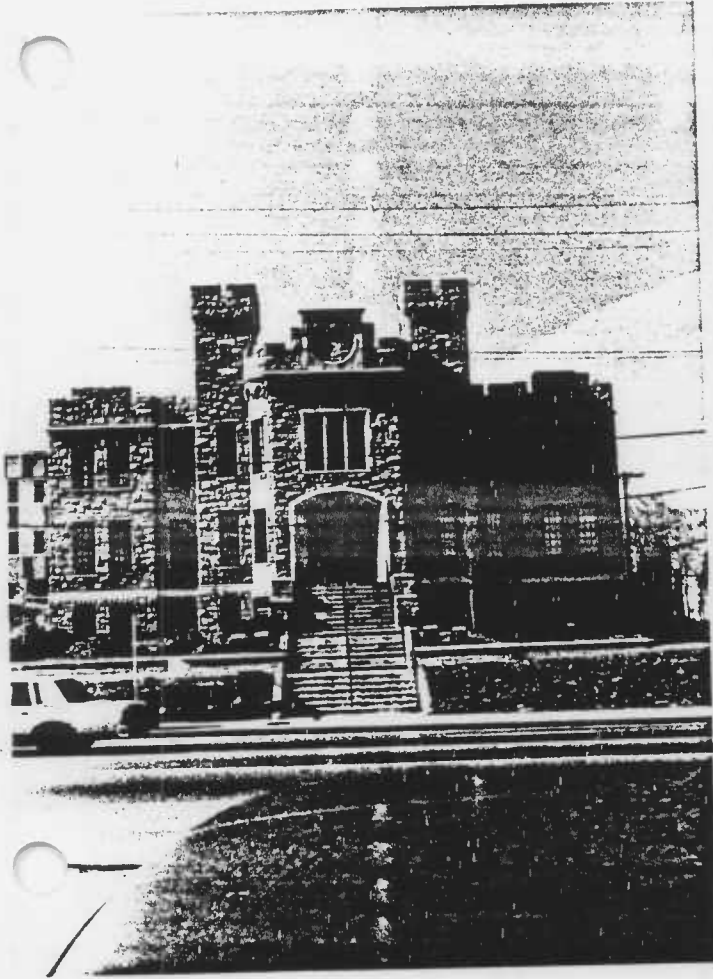




Hyattsville Armory  
Photograph 1922

PG:68-9







(11/5/79)

Element

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 68-9 Date 1918  
Building Name Hyattsville Armory  
Location 5123 Baltimore Avenue (Rte.#1)  
Open to Public x yes      no

The Hyattsville Commercial Armory is a fortress-like, stone structure of three stories, designed by William Harris and built by the State of Maryland in 1918 to house components of Company F of the First Maryland Infantry.

Rectangular turrets flank the arched entrance on the main (east) facade; the parapeted walls contain gun slots and loopholes. The long east-west walls are buttressed, thus dividing each wall into six bays, each lighted with six 15-light windows. The east facade presently has one-over-one-light windows, although the owner plans to restore them to their original six-over-six and nine-over-nine arrangement.

In 1917, Company F was consolidated with elements of the 5th Maryland Infantry Regiment to form the 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division. The regiment distinguished itself in both the First and Second World Wars.

In 1919, Post 3 (composed of men of Company F) became the first American Legion post in Prince George's County; it was Post 3 which erected the Memorial Peace Cross at Bladensburg in July 1922.

In 1971, the 115th Infantry Regiment vacated the Armory and the building served afterwards as a meeting place for various church and civic organizations. In 1975 it was sold by the State of Maryland to Berton Bromwell & Son, Fireplace Fixture Company.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Hyattsville Armory

AND OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5123 Baltimore Avenue (U.S. Route 1)

CITY, TOWN

Hyattsville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Prince George's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

D. I. Bromwell, Inc. (Fireplace Fixtures) Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5123 Baltimore Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Hyattsville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Liber #: 4481

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Folio #: 483

Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

not in HABS

DATE

P.G. Survey, 1974

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Calvert Mansion, 4811 Riverdale Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Riverdale,

STATE

Maryland

## 7 DESCRIPTION

PG:68-9

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hyattsville Commercial Armory is a fortress-like, stone structure of three stories, known locally as the "Castle on the hill". Rectangular turrets flank the arched entrance in the main (east) facade, above which the reverse of the "Great Seal of Maryland" appears in limestone. The parapeted walls contain gun slots and loopholes. The long east-west walls are buttressed, thus dividing each wall into six bays; each bay is lighted with six 15-light windows.

The main facade presently has one-over-one windows in the first and second stories, although the owner plans to restore them to their original nine-over-nine and six-over-six arrangement.

The principal space of the building is the assembly area, lighted by the windows between the exterior buttresses. Entrance to the assembly area is gained through a foyer in the front of the building. The first and second floor of this front section are presently used as offices. The assembly room and the basement beneath it are presently used for storage and work area by the Bromwell Fireplace Fixture Company.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS-GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1918

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Harris

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hyattsville Commercial Armory is the first armory built in Prince George's County and the fourth in the state; it is architecturally unique to this area. It was designed by William Harris and built by the State of Maryland in 1918, to house components of the already established Company F. Company F of the First Maryland Infantry had been formed on May 8, 1912, and until the construction of the Armory, had met in a room above the Hyattsville Fire Department. In 1917, Company F was consolidated with elements of the Fifth Maryland Infantry Regiment to form the 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division. This regiment distinguished itself in both the First and Second World Wars.

On July 8, 1919, Post 3 (composed of men of Company F) received its charter and became the first American Legion post in Prince George's County. It was Post 3 which erected the Memorial Peace Cross at Bladensburg, which was dedicated in July 1922.

The 115th Infantry Regiment vacated the Hyattsville Armory in 1971 to take up permanent residence at the George Gilson Armory in Silver Spring, Maryland. After that time the Armory served as a meeting place for civic organizations, etc., until its sale by the State of Maryland to Berton Bromwell & Son, Fireplace Fixture Company.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

P.G.C.Deeds: \$4481:483; #127:87; #12:567; FS#4:97; FS#2:135

"115th Infantry", Chaplain F. Reynolds, 1920; "The American Legion"  
Walter F. Richardson, 1934.Interviews: with Milton Zavadil, Jr., Asst. Chief of Staff, Fifth  
Regiment Armory. Francis Geary; Mrs. Hugh McClay.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

William Aleshire, Robert Sellers, and James Maher (AIA)

ORGANIZATION

P.G. Historical and Cultural Trust

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

12302 Chalford Lane,

TELEPHONE

262-5505

CITY OR TOWN

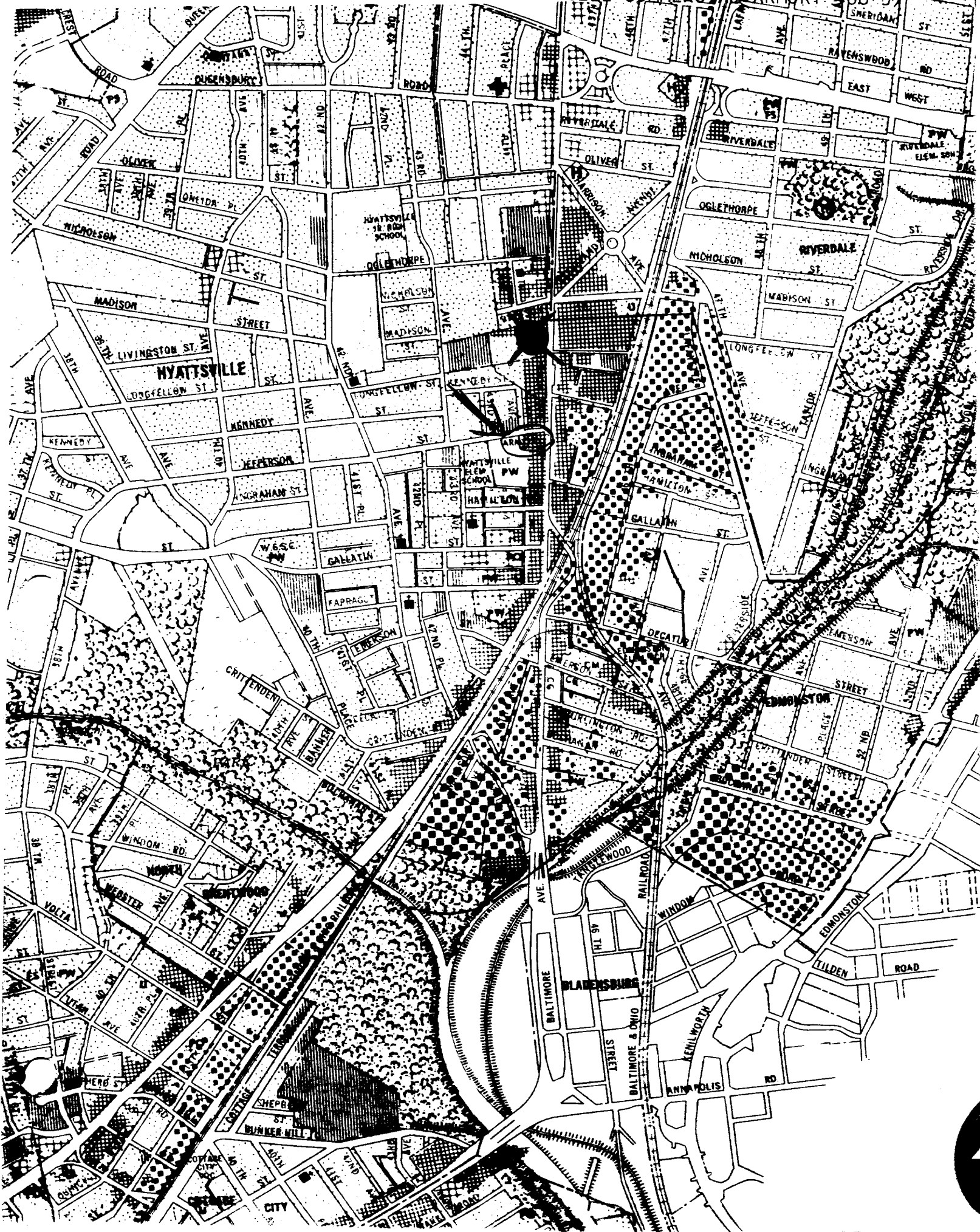
Bowie, Md.

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438





NAME HYATTSVILLE ARMORY

PG: 68-9

LOCATION Rt 1 HYATTSVILLE, Md

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